

From: Castro, David
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am not happy with the Microsoft settlement as proposed. There seem to be a number of problems with it.

One problem that bothers me is that the settlement does not do enough to limit the way Microsoft exercises monopoly power over OEMs and ISVs. Microsoft retaliates against vendors who ship hardware with competing OSs and software; they do not allow vendors to ship their software along with competing (eg. open source) software. In particular the settlement allows microsoft to retaliate against small, local vendors. As a result, vendors who ship microsoft software and Windows-compatible hardware (ie. most vendors) shy away from competing software; microsoft's competition and the market are hurt by this.

In general I feel that the settlement preserves the status quo in terms of MS's anticompetitive behavior. The goal is to have a competitive software market, in which the user has a choice of products. This goal is not served by the current settlement, which allows microsoft to continue its behavior to the customer's detriment.